said the writer, "whether either at home or abroad so large a proportion of travellers to the whole population is to be found. The traffic between Glasgow and Paisley is probably the most remarkable instance on record of the increase of travelling caused by increased facilities. In 1814 there was only one coach a week between Glasgow and Paisley conveying about 2,000 passengers per annum: if we multiply this by 5 to allow for the greater number of gigs and private vehicles then in use, we only get 10,000 passengers per annum conveyed between the two places. In 1842 the numbers travelling by public conveyance between Glasgow and Paisley were upwards of 900,000. Now, as the population between 1814 and 1842 had only about doubled itself, while the traffic, as we see, had multiplied itself ninety-fold, it follows that the increased facilities of transport had increased the number travelling relatively to the population 45 times: that is to say, that for every journey which an inhabitant of Glasgow or Paisley took in 1814 he took 45 journeys in 1843. These results, I conceive, place it beyond a doubt that we should spare no effort to make railway travelling cheap and within the reach of all classes."

SOCIETY OF ARTS' PREMIUMS.

NOTICE that the new list of prizes offered by the society is published has appeared in our advertising columns. We give such of the items as will more immediately interest the majority of our readers.—A gold medal, offered by Prince Albert, for the best cement for uniting glass, particular attention being made to perfectly cementing glass pipes or glass roofing. It must be clearly understood that this prize will not be awarded unless a cement should be produced which will bear the strongest test and trials.—Prize of fifty guineas offered by Mr. T. Twining, jun. For the best series of experimental researches on and specimens of the application of slag or other allied products to new purposes, useful or ornamental. Candidates for this premium will find a detailed account of the views of the donor, together with many useful suggestions, in his paper entitled "Pyrolite," read before the society, and printed for distribution by order of the council.—Prizes (in money or books) for the encouragement of studies for decorative designs, open to competitors of either sex under twenty-one years of age. For the best original studies from nature. Of the hop, and the bindweed or convolvulus major, and the red-berried bryony. For the best group of oak and ivy leaves, arranged together ornamentally. For the best drawing of an ornamental arrangement of the honeysuckle and passion flower.—In the designers' class, open to competitors of either sex, and all ages. For the best cartoon, being an original composition, of a group of the rose, shamrock, and thistle, arranged ornamentally. A silver medal and 3*l*.—For the best cartoon of an arrangement of the hop as a paper hanging. Silver medal and 2*l*.—For the best drawings of a series of British wild flowers, to be treated for printing on china, as ornaments. The silver medal and 5*l*.—For the best design of a stained-glass window, to suit a room or passage, in the Italian style of architecture. The silver medal and 10*l*.—For the best ornamental design for an open-work pannel, in cast or wrought-iron, and suitable for an entrance gate. The silver medal.—For the best specimens of wood-carving, the production of an artisan (male or female) who is not a wood-carver by profession. Two silver medals. The object of this prize is to encourage wood-carving (which is a home occupation) as a means of employment subsidiary to other occupations.—For the best specimen of die-cutting of the human figure for stamping medals for ornamental purposes. The dies to be produced. The gold medal.—Medals of gold or silver, and honorary testimonials will be given to manufacturers and others, who shall exhibit at the society's house, in the year 1849, fine and original specimens of paper hangings. Iron and brass casting, applied to ornamental purposes. Metal figure casting. The most beautiful novelty in earthenware, marble, and slate. Best work of art applied to paper hanging.

For the best design for a labourer's cottage in the country. The large gold medal or 31*l*. 10*s*. The drawings to comprise a general plan, elevation, and section, drawn to a scale of three-eighths of an inch to the foot, together with the requisite working drawings to a larger scale, and a general specification of the internal finishing and fittings proposed. The design must provide a living room, a scullery, and three bedrooms. Presuming that in structures of this description, where the outlay must necessarily be very limited, both with a view to economy of material, and likewise to external effect, it will be considered desirable that the cottages should be erected in pairs, the wall between them containing the flues; in such cases, the details of one only will be required. The cost of a double cottage erected in Middlesex, when completed with the requisite landlord's fixtures, must not exceed 200*l*. All designs in competition for the above design must be sent in on or before the first Monday in January, 1849.—

For the best essay on the mode of arranging and constructing a farmstead, homestead, and the complete requirements of an agricultural establishment for 300 acres, comprehending the best system of convenient arrangement of the farm-yard and offices, as to draining them most simply and economically, and especially with reference to the reception of a steam-engine capable of performing the various duties of threshing, cleansing, bruising, cutting, grinding, and steaming with economy, safety, &c. The essay to be illustrated with drawings or models, to shew what degree of picturesque effect might be given to such design, subservient to strict economy, and a specification, describing the materials such buildings would be constructed with, and the reasons for their propriety. Separate drawings of the elevations of the homestead and offices, section of the ground-plans and plans of the liquid manure tank and drains are required. The gold medal.—For any material improvement in the manufacture of crown glass, with special reference to the transparency and durability of surface. A gold medal.—For the plan of a roof, composed of wood and iron, circular or octagonal, to cover the largest area without pillars, with details, specification, and estimates, and the cubic quantities of timber, with the weight of wrought and cast-iron employed. The gold medallion, the Acton premium.—For the design of the arrangements for the interior of a building to accommodate the largest audience, with the most perfect arrangement for hearing. A gold medal.—For the best essay on the means by which the roofs and walls of large buildings may be constructed so as to prevent echoes or sounds that would interfere with the voice of a speaker, also pointing out the position in which the speaker should be placed so as to be heard by the largest number of persons. The silver medal.—For the best design for a conservatory, to be executed in carpentry, combining firmness and strength of construction with lightness and elegance of form. The structure to be suitable for the gardens of a botanical or horticultural society, and adapted to the present improved state of the glass manufacture. A gold medal.—For the most simple and efficient field-gate. The silver medal.

LIMPET SHELLS IN CROMLECHS.—Mr. Lukis, in the course of a paper read before the British Archæological Association, described a cromlech discovered in Jersey, and excavated by him a few months since. In it were earthen vessels, and an immense quantity of limpet shells. Referring to the latter, he said there was a difficulty in solving the question why such a mass of limpet shells should invariably be found in these abodes of the dead in Brittany, as well as throughout the Channel Islands. They were discovered in every sepulchre, in the earliest as well as in the most recent. Was this species of food sacred to the dead? Or did the devotees and pilgrims to the sepulchres of their fathers share with them their scanty fare? Certain it was that the enormous quantity of limpet shells found within the tombs, and covering the bones and skulls sometimes two and three feet in thickness, and this at considerable distances from the haunts of man, renders this subject one of curious inquiry to the antiquary.

METROPOLITAN COMMISSION OF SEWERS.

A GENERAL court was held on Thursday, the 31st ult., in No. 23 Committee-room, New Houses of Parliament; the Right Hon. Viscount Morpeth, M.P., in the chair.

Lord Morpeth rose and said,—Before opening the regular business of the day, he was called upon to mention that the Bill for Consolidating the Metropolitan Commissions of Sewers had passed both Houses of Parliament, and would in a short time receive the Royal assent. He entertained a hope that the result of the measure would be to confer upon them important advantages in carrying into effect the labours in which they had been engaged with economy, convenience, and efficiency. However, as in all human affairs, disappointment might ensue on the best-grounded calculations, he would not indulge in those calculations for the future, but would offer two or three observations on the past. He believed that seven months had elapsed since the gentlemen who had served on the united commissions commenced their labours. He need not say that many eyes were necessarily turned upon them, some of whom, no doubt, would not have been sorry to have found that their exertions for the public had failed, as it was incumbent on them that they should interfere with the old settled order of things and with existing interests. At their commencement they certainly experienced the effects of the newness of their duties, and not having possession of the legal powers to perform those duties that devolved upon them with promptitude and efficiency. Under the circumstances, therefore, it was a great tribute to their ability and zeal to find that the Bill to confirm, consolidate, and extend their functions had passed both Houses of Parliament without even the shadow of opposition. To justify this result, he had drawn up a short summary of their proceedings during the past seven months, which, with their permission, he would read to them. (This document set forth that at the outset of their labours they stopped works which were being carried on on a principle wasteful of the public money, and required the officers to give their undivided attention to the service of the commission. On the first day of their meeting, also, they took steps to obtain an accurate and authentic survey of the metropolis, to put a stop to the waste that had been incurred by works carried on in separate districts without regard to any common system of levels. This survey was now in progress with all speed, 250 men being engaged on it; and when completed, it would also serve as an aid in all new building operations, for the identification and valuation of property, assessment of rates, construction of roads, distribution of gas and water, and other important public purposes; and concurrently with this work was a subterranean exploration of the old sewers and drainage works, to ascertain their condition, and how far they may be available for future operations. Attention had been given to the worst drained places, and a new and improved mode of cleansing cesspools had been adopted, the offensiveness being diminished, the time reduced to one-sixth, and the expense to one-third. The sewers, too, had been cleansed by flushing,—on 163 miles of sewers upwards of 139,000 cube yards, or about 250,000 tons of refuse, having been removed at a saving of 38,000*l*. on former charges; but the operations had not been so extensive as might have been desired, in consequence of the unfavourable state of the weather, and the deposit in the sewers being generally copious, offensive, and injurious. Plans had been offered for the ventilation of sewers by ascending shafts; but the evidence obtained as to the diffusion of vapours from chemical works, appeared a very doubtful remedy, and did not justify their recommendation of them, considering the most effectual course to be the prevention of deposit by proper arrangement of drains and appropriate supplies of water. The system of house drainage had also largely engaged their attention, and their consulting-engineer and the surveyors had been directed to prepare approved plans of house-drains and cleansing apparatus, and their report will shortly be ready for public circulation. The application of manure and sewage-water had also received their serious attention; but they had at present only sanctioned trial works. However, arrangements had been made for supplying agriculturists with manure and sewage on the most liberal terms for the purpose of further trials; and it was hoped the progress of these works would influence the extension of others throughout the empire.) The noble lord, in conclusion, trusted that the new board to be formed would continue in the course that had been so well begun.

The state of the River Thames Water.—Mr. Chadwick drew the attention of the court to remarks that had been passed on the state of the Thames water now and formerly, and contended that no increase of injury had been experienced. An analysis of this water had been made, and it had been found to be less unfavourable than it was twenty years ago, when Dr. Bostock analysed it and reported the result to Parliament. There was, too, an absence of deposit on the banks now, for the accu-

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